

Safety Flash: Incident with Property Damage

Incident: An ironworker was working in a man-lift at roof height when his arm bumped a connecting rod which hit the sprinkler head. The head opened and discharged water into the building.

Possible contributing factors:

- Work being performed was added to our original scope.
- The sprinkler head was installed immediately adjacent to the connecting rod and positioned so the protective hoop was parallel to the connecting rod, exposing the head to damage.
- BIM was not used on the project to identify potential conflicts before work began.
- The worker installing the sprinkler head didn't recognize that it was in close proximity to the building members and didn't bring it to anyone's attention.

Primary contributing factor

- The worker installing the sprinkler head didn't recognize that it was in close proximity to the building members and didn't bring it to anyone's attention.

Possible solutions

- Verify that sprinkler heads have been installed with enough clearance.
- Make sure nothing is in contact with sprinkler heads.

Action plan

- RLI spoke to the subcontractor about sprinkler heads being installed against building components.

Keep improving

Your health and safety are our core value on every project. If you see a way we can support you in keeping our job sites safe, see your supervisor or contact: Jim Philo, 419/654-2043; Rich Franklin, Michigan, 734/679-7283; Alan Doane, Cleveland, 440/429-0639; or Mark Hoffman, 419/360-9280.

